

Legislative Research
SAFLL-2

January 1962

Congressional Information

Name: Bartlett, E. L. (Bob) - Democrat - Senator from Alaska

Born: in Seattle, Washington, April 20, 1904

Home: Juneau

Education: Universities of Washington and Alaska

Marital Status: Married - two daughters

Profession: Journalist; Congressional secretary; miner

Formerly a staff member of the Fairbanks Daily News Miner.
Gold miner in Alaska (1936-39)
Served as chairman, Unemployment Compensation Commission of Alaska
under Presidential appointment (1939-44).
Elected as Delegate to Congress from Alaska in 1944; reelected
through 1956
Elected to U.S. Senate November 25, 1958. Reelected to six year
term November 1960

Member: Pioneers of Alaska; Elks

Bases: Clear BMEWS Station; Eielson AFB; Elmendorf AFB

Committees: Armed Services (Subcommittees: Preparedness Investigating; Cold War
Menace)

Commerce (Subcommittees: No. 3 and No. 4)

Small Business (Subcommittees: Taxes; Relations of Business With
Government)

Board of Visitors Coast Guard Academy

Remarks: Prior to 86th Congress he was a nonvoting member of the House Armed
Services Committee. Also prior to this period he was a member of
the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee and was particu-
larly interested in military public land withdrawal bills.

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bartlett -

2

86th Congress - comments --

Following are some of the bills he introduced: S. 176 (cosponsor), permitting cost of living allowances in excess of 25% of basic compensation; S. 3122 (cosponsor), establish an Air Rescue Service in USAF; S. 2692 (cosponsor), establish 10 year oceanographic program.

Draft -- prefers a two year extension, but called for manpower study. Asked if 2 year draftees and 6 month reservists be competent with atomic artillery, missiles, etc. Should not a purely professional force be considered? (Cong. Record March 10, 1959 Page 3346)

Alaska Defense -- joined with Sen. Gruening in questions about plans for defense of Alaska in case of war (result of H. Baldwin NY Times Article indicating that only two installations around Fairbanks and Anchorage would be defended) Former Sec of Defense McElroy replied no such plans exist that contemplate failure to defend any and all of our sovereign territory). (Cong. Record April 27, 1959)

Army Modernization -- voted for Symington amendment to crease funds for, and Thurmond's amendment to decrease funds for civil airlift.

Air Rescue -- protested decision to inactivate 71st Air Rescue Sq., Elmendorf. Later introduced S. 3122 to establish Air Rescue Service in USAF. Believes it's an AF function. (Cong. Record Feb. 2, 1960 Page 1550)

Ladd AFB -- protested inactivation of 449th FIS and resultant reduction of people at base. Four times extended his remarks in the June 1, 10, 20, and July 5th, 1960 Congressional Records)

Liquid Oxygen Plants -- during FY60 DOD budget floor debate and before the Appropriations Committee he testified against AF bids to construct plants. Said AF was not out of bakery and laundry businesses as yet. Associated himself with Sen. Gruening that commissary price policies in Alaska are placing artificial barriers on economic growth of Alaska. (Cong. Record June 16, 1960)

Fighters -- submitted John Norris article "Don't Write Off Soviet Bombers, Generals Plead". This he said supports his contention that fighters are needed in Alaska. Said the article is in harmony with General White's statement to the House Appropriations Committee that "for a long time to come a principal threat will come from the big Russian manned bomber fleet." (Cong. Record May 31, 1960)

87th Congress -- Comments ----

Some bills he introduced in 1st Session: S. 401 (cosponsor), equalizing pay of retired members of uniformed services; S. 902 (cosponsor), general amendments to Small Business Investment Act of 1958; S. 529 (cosponsor), amending the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 to provide for more effective evaluation of fiscal requirements of the executive agencies of Government.

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Hartlett -

2

Alaska Defense -- submitted military paper by Col. Willard Pearson (USA). Said its the colonel's contention that should another war come, Arctic Ocean will have same strategic significance as Mediterranean had in WW II. He called Alaska logical place for placing ICBM's and IRBM's. Refuted cost argument: "It has long been my belief that acceptance of this theory is equivalent to saying we cannot defend ourselves." (Cong. Record Feb. 9, 1961 Page 1827)

Inserted Jessen Weekly editorial (Fairbanks) which he said succinctly expresses sentiments of many Alaskans. Said editorial reminds us of strategic role of Alaska should play in offensive capabilities of US military force. Doesn't think Alaska's role should be restricted merely to a bastion of defensive capability but should be enlarged through a system of missile-launching facilities. (Cong. Record April 27, 1961 Page A2912)

Has offered any assistance to Assistant Sec of Interior Carver in working for favorable consideration by AF, of the Interior Dept's official proposal for training as many as 500 or 600 Alaska natives for maintenance positions in RCA operated installations in Alaska.

Texas Tower -- congratulated report by the Preparedness Subcommittee. Called for constant investigation so there will be no possibility of a repetition. (June 28, 1961)

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